

Remarks

Amendments to the Specification

The applicant has amended the specification in order to make the “Summary of the Invention” conform to the presently amended claims, to correct certain typographical errors and errors in some of the reference numerals, and to remove references to certain reference numerals that did not appear in the drawings.

No new matter has been introduced by these amendments.

Amendments to the Claims

The Examiner had rejected claims 1-10, and had objected to claims 11-25. The Examiner indicated that claims 11-25 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of the base claim (in this case claim 1).

The applicant hereby withdraws claims 1-10 from consideration in the present application, without prejudice to the applicant’s right to assert these claims in a continuation of the present application. The withdrawal by the applicant of claims 1-10 does not constitute an admission, concession or acknowledgement that the prior art supports the Examiner’s rejection of these claims.

The applicant has amended claims 11, 17-19 and 24 to incorporate the limitations of claim 1, from which they formerly depended, and has thereby placed these claims in independent form. Claims 12-16 depend directly or indirectly from claim 11, claims 20-23 depend directly or indirectly from claim 18, and claim 25 depends from claim 24. Claims 11 to 25 therefore no longer depend upon a rejected base claim. As the Examiner has indicated that these claims were otherwise allowable, the applicant submits that claims 11-25, as amended, are now allowable.

The applicant has cancelled claim 14, as this claim was entirely duplicative of claim 13 and was included by inadvertence.

In addition, the applicant has made a minor correction to claim 20, replacing the term

“ventilating” with “ventilation”, and has added the words “length and” to claim 21 to clarify that the footprint referred to therein has both a length and a width.

The applicant has also amended claims 19-23 to delete the word “paint” so that the language is consistent with that of the other claims, which refer to a “spray booth” rather than a “paint spray booth”.

Because the number of independent claims has been increased above three, the applicant has included in our firm’s cheque of today’s date the fees required for additional independent claims pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.16(h). Please charge any additional required fees to our firm’s Deposit Account No. 02-2553.

No new matter has been introduced by these amendments.

Amendments to the Drawings

The applicant has replaced the informal drawings that were on file with the enclosed set of formal drawings.

In Figure 1a, the side light panels are now indicated by reference numeral 198.

In Figure 1b, reference numeral 94 (overhead lighting assembly) has been removed because this element is not visible in this figure.

In Figure 2, a duplicative and incorrect occurrence of reference numeral 102 (outboard filter element array) has been removed, and reference numeral 160 (exhaust assembly) has been moved to more accurately indicate the appropriate element. Also in Figure 2, reference numeral 140 (ventilation system) has been moved, and its associated line modified, to more clearly indicate that the ventilation system is comprised of a number of elements. Still referring to Figure 2, reference numerals 88 (right hand filter frame) and 142 (centrifugal blower) have been added to indicate the respective associated elements.

No new matter has been introduced by these amendments.

Conclusion

Since the rejected claims have been withdrawn, and the claims that were objected to have been rewritten in independent form to incorporate the limitations of the base claim, the applicant submits that the application is now in condition for allowance, and prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should any Patent Office official want to telephone, the call should be made to Mark D. Penner (Registration No. 48,092) at 416.863.4283.

Yours very truly,



Mark D. Penner
(Registration No. 48,092)

BLAKE, CASSELS & GRAYDON LLP
Box 25, Commerce Court West
199 Bay Street, Suite 2800
Toronto, Ontario M5L 1A9
Canada
Telephone: 416.863.2400
Facsimile: 416.863.2653

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Amendments to the Drawings

Please replace the current set of drawings, consisting of Figures 1a, 1b, 2 and 3, with the replacement drawings, also consisting of Figures 1a, 1b, 2 and 3, enclosed herewith.